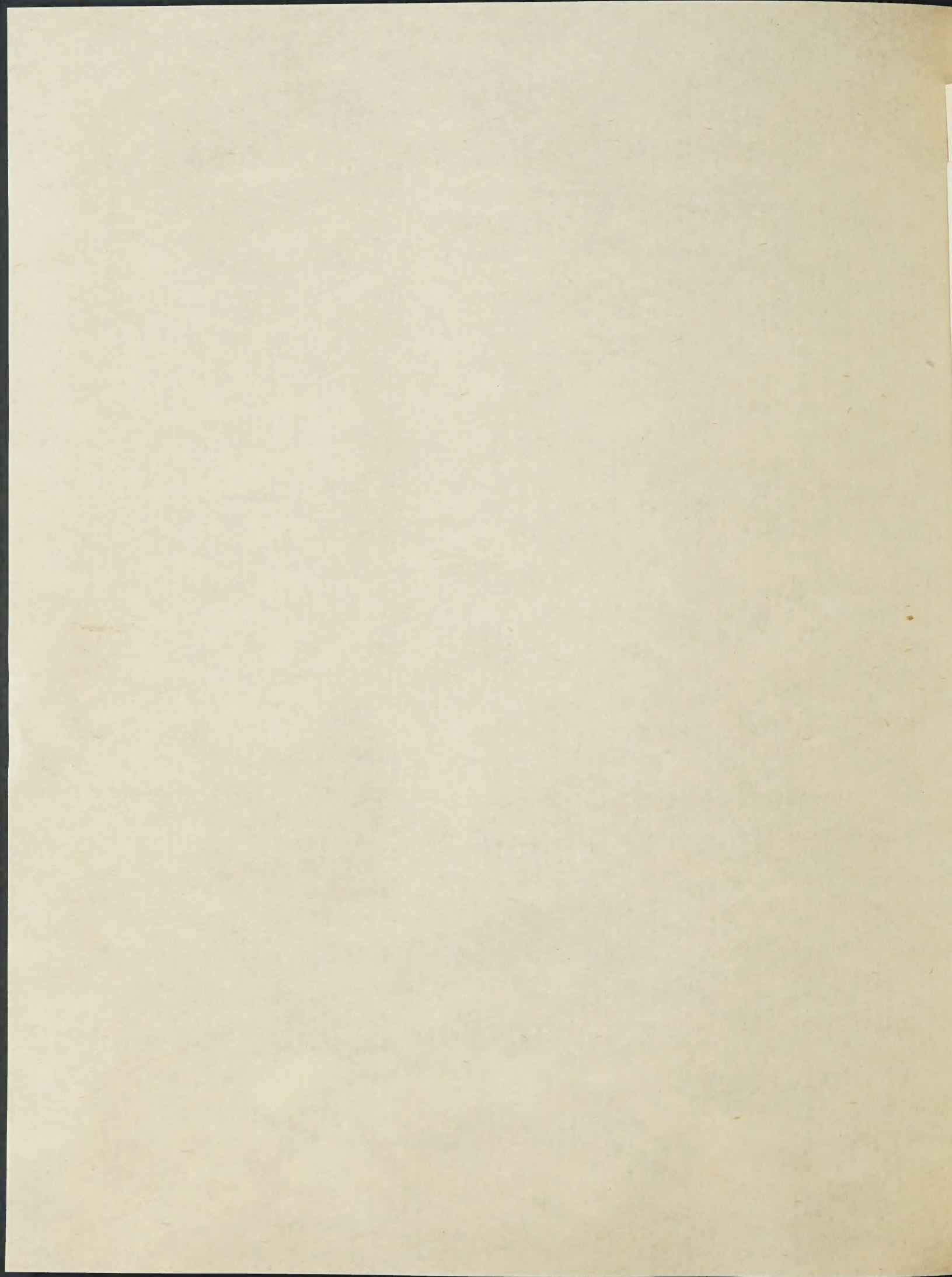


Hiebert, Paul G

Oct 1917

(09)



Winnipeg Oct. 10/17

H22

H21

Dear Doctor Falconer:-

Before leaving Toronto last spring, Dr. Fairley and I discussed the possibilities of my fellowship being renewed, and we reached the conclusion that my chances were very hopeful. Recognizing, however, that my ignorance of French constituted a serious handicap to further post graduate study, I promised Dr. Fairley that I would devote my summer to the study of French, and I tacitly assumed that this was conditional to my return to the University of Toronto.

I applied for a renewal of my fellowship shortly after returning to Winnipeg, and studied French with considerable diligence and encouraging results while waiting for a favorable reply. Towards the month of August, however, I gave up hopes of returning to Toronto, more especially since with the introduction of the Military Service Act I might not be allowed to continue my studies to the end of the term, even

Oct 1917

if the University of Toronto were to favorably consider my application — which under those circumstances I regarded as unlikely. I feared also, that the winter would again find me without means of support and so followed what I considered the safest plan; giving up my studies for the time being in order to make enough money to attend the Normal course at Winnipeg which will enable me to teach school in Manitoba. I was fortunate in persuading the Department of Education to make a concession in my case, so they allowed me to take the short course whereby I should receive my teacher's certificate at Christmas, instead of next July as is customary.

I wrote to Dr. Fairley at the time informing him of my change in plans. Since then I have studied no French at all, and so I cannot honorably take advantage of the unexpected renewal of my fellowship.

It is my intention to return to Toronto to complete my Ph.D. course as soon as I am able to do so financially. Unless I am called upon to support my parents (which at times appears probable) I expect to return to Toronto late next fall, or at the worst, a year later. May I ask, then, that the fellowship so generously offered to me this year, be extended another year; that I be granted "leave of absence" as it were, for one year. This will enable me to remove the present difficulty in regards to French and also to obtain my teacher's certificate whereby I can make enough money to complete my studies at the university, by teaching through the summer holidays. Hitherto my father has assisted me, but this is no longer possible.

The situation is further complicated by the uncertainty as to what will happen to me when I go before the exemption board next week. It is possible that I shall not be exempted because I

have not joined the Mennonite Church.
In that case I shall go to jail as a
conscientious objector.

It is with deep regret that I cannot
take advantage of the proferred renewal
of my fellowship, and in view of the
circumstances I hope that the University
of Toronto will favorably consider my request
that it be extended another year.

Thanking you for your kindness I
remain,

sincerely,

Paul G. Diebert

261 Furby St.
Winnipeg.

422

October 22nd, 1917

Mr. Paul G. Siebert,
261 Forty Street,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Mr. Siebert:

I am much interested in your letter. In view of all the circumstances I think probably it is better that you should not return this year. The extra year at the study of French will undoubtedly be of value and you might find difficulties in regard to military service.

I cannot make any promise at present with regard to a future scholarship, because naturally we must consider the people who are here or other applicants who may come forward next year. However, your work here has been good, and I should think that you would have a very good chance of having it for a second term. I cannot say more than that at present.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

